

Lambda Link

Your Connection to the Lambda Community Center

July—August 2004

DIVERSITY MATTERS

Volume 1, Issue 3

Help The Lambda Center Pain-Free!

Have you ever thought, "What can I do to help the Lambda Center?" Well, here are two fantastic ways. Best of all, these are totally pain-free!

Firstly, visit us online at lambdasac.org, where you can shop until you drop and help the Lambda Community Fund at the same time! ...and it doesn't cost you anything extra!

Now when you shop online, a percentage of your purchases will be donated to the Lambda Community Fund. Go to our website, click on the iGive.com logo to register and then start shopping by following their links to all your favorite shopping sites such as Dell, Barnes & Noble, Staples, Best Buy, 1-800-FLOWERS, Sharper Image, buy.com, and Eddie Bauer. There are over 450 other shopping sites available!

Each site will donate anywhere from 1% to over 10% of your purchase to the Lambda



Step up to the plate
Against AIDS

A very special day at Raley Field.
Please join us for the RiverCats first ever

AIDS Awareness Day

Sunday, August 15, 2004

\$11 tickets are on sale at the Lambda Center
\$3 of that goes to HIV/AIDS programs!

Community Fund. Prices are comparable to other sites and are often lower. Your donation does not increase the cost to you and membership is absolutely free. Check their website for complete details.

Secondly, you can help us painlessly with

your Albertsons card. Albertsons will donate a percentage of your purchases to the Lambda Community Fund to support our LGBT youth programs. It's absolutely free, doesn't add a cent to your bill, yet increases your bang for the buck!

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Reaching Our "IQ"

With the Sacramento area population at around 1.5 million, Kinsey reports we represent 10%. We're talking about approximately 150,000 of us right here. Where are we? Where are our "IQ?" Our "Invisible Queers." How does the Lambda Community Center serve "their" needs. I'm talking about all those Latinos, Blacks, Asians, Pacific Islanders, Europeans, Seniors, Suburbanite Nesters, Clubbers, Twinks, Bears, Homeless Youth, Students, Professionals, Daters? Where are you? Did we forget to invite you? Don't cha wanna come? Wanna volunteer? Are you ready for a change? Can you feel it? Well, can you feel it?

This is an exciting time for the Center. We're working on getting a bigger and better building with lots of cool stuff. Wouldn't it be grand to have a one-stop place for us to hangout? I mean all of us. Ya know, dine in style in a 4-star restaurant, see a play, look at some art, take a



By JG Gonsalves

dance class, attend a group while we watch your kids, do some pottery, chat in the coffee lounge, meditate in a garden, workout in a gym, boogie with friends, watch some TV, read in a comfy spot, paint a Picasso, get your hair and nails done, get a massage. Whew!

Well, we need you. Yes, you! I'm sure you have some skill we could use to help realize this dream. I bet some of you are interior decorators, contractors, counselors, facilitators, grant writers, visionaries, dance instructors, craft artists, actors, dancers, directors, organizers, activists, dreamers, receptionists, researchers, humorists, drag queens, chefs, electricians, nurses, drug counselors, social workers, foster parents,

Moms, Dads, brothers and sisters. Have I left anyone out, wants to be Out, is fully Out, knows someone who is Out, is Out and about, not willing to shout it Out? Well, please forgive me. This Center is for our community of diversity and somehow I bet I've left out someone's special identity. Hey, that rhymes!

Anywho! This is your time to get involved. Here's your opportunity. Volunteer, visit the Center, bring a friend, tell a friend, share this newsletter, fill out a volunteer form for "later." That way we will reach our full potential. That way we will be reaching our IQ!

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Fireworks! A Huge Success!

Our Lambda Freedom Fireworks Stand was a huge success. Located at 16th and R in mid-town Sacramento, across the street from the Light Rail Station, we were open for the seven days ending July 4th. Thanks to the hard work of our many dedicated volunteers, we were able to gross over \$7,000 in our first year of operation!

Thanks to each and every one of you in the community who came by the Stand and supported us with your fireworks purchases. And thanks for the many compliments on how well the Stand was decorated!

This year, Piccolo Petes and the colorful fountains of light celebrate both our nation's Independence Day and the good work being done by the programs here at the Center.

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To get an Albertson's card go to any of their stores and ask at the checkstand. Then go to our website at lambdasac.org to register it by clicking on their logo. Now every time you make a qualifying purchase (see website for details), Albertson's will donate up to 4% to support the Lambda Community Center's youth programs—no extra cost!

If you have any questions about these programs, please call the Center at (916-442-0185). Be sure to check our website for more ways to help!



PHOTOGRAPHY
by Larry

unions • portraits • events
weddings/receptions

916-645-8447

www.1-800-916-foto.com/rainbow

Want to Volunteer?

Help us help our community! Here are just some of the areas that the Lambda Community Center needs volunteer help.

- **Marketing/Publicity/Public Relations.** If this is your passion, we need your help with the many projects we are doing over the next year.
- **Finance Committee.** Are you experienced in Finance? Do you have a business background? Are you knowledgeable about investments and financial planning? We can use your help.
- **Front Desk/Office Volunteers.** We need volunteers to answer phone and greet visitors to the Center. We also have numerous special projects that always require enthusiastic help.
- **Fundraising Committee.** Raising money is always very important to a nonprofit, Lambda is no different. If you have successfully served on other fundraising committees or know how to raise significant amounts of money, we need your help.
- **Lambda Link.** Do you have experience with newsletters? Can you write for a newsletter? The *Lambda Link* can use some good people to help put each issue together. With enough help, we can begin publishing monthly.
- **Building Committee.** In the near future, we will be moving into a much larger facility. If you have any experience in assisting in a project such as this, we can use your help.

Volunteer today! Please call **Jason Kirkland**, our Volunteer Coordinator, at (916) 442-0185, ext. 103, or email him at jason@lambdasac.org. You'll be glad you did!

Mark Your Calendars for 2005!

The Lambda Awards Dinner will
be on Monday,
March 21

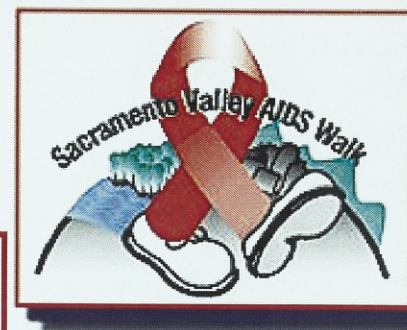


The 21st Annual Freedom Fair
will be Saturday, June 11



Take the Next Step

4TH ANNUAL SACRAMENTO VALLEY AIDS WALK
Sunday, September 12, 2004



Join the Lambda Community Center Walking Team!
Call Jason Kirkland today at (916) 442-0185 ext 103 and Come Walk With Us!

On My Mind

I would like to introduce myself. I am Lori Reyes and I am the first Hispanic female to join the Lambda Community Fund's Board of Directors in many years. We're still researching to see if I am the first ever.

By Lori Reyes



I have to ask myself why does it appear that I am the first. After all, Lambda has been around for 20 years. The answer is that, like so many other Hispanic lesbians, I had never even stepped foot in the Lambda Center. Sure I know Sacramento had a Gay and Lesbian Center, but I wasn't even sure where it was.

I thought that my support for the LGBT community was attending the yearly Freedom Fair and the Rainbow Festival. I also thought that I had volunteered for other gay-friendly organizations that I was supporting my community.

I think one of the largest obstacles for Hispanic lesbians "coming out" is that they have to deal with many traditional values placed upon them by their families and society. Much of this has to do with religious beliefs. From as far back as I can remember, all I knew was that I would grow up, get married, and raise a family. My mother, my sisters, my aunts, and all the females I had been exposed to had husbands and children. Their families came first and their careers were second.

Many Hispanic women have children during high school or right after. They marry very young and many stay in marriages with their high school sweet hearts for twenty or more years. Our mothers instill "family values" in us from birth on. We are taught to cater to our husbands and sons and to teach our daughters to cook and clean and be good future wives and mothers. Our sons are taught to be

strong men, dominating and able to care for their families both physically and mentally. Above all, we are taught to praise our lord Jesus Christ for all our blessings.

How would I have had any idea I was a lesbian, having been so conditioned by my family, my church, and my peers? Believe me, it was a difficult process that I will share with you in another article.

My New Year's resolution for 2004 was to provide as much support as I could to my community, the LGBT community. I would seek justice and equality for all and educate my community on all issues facing us and other minority communities.

So I diligently searched the Internet for hours and in the process became a member of at least 15 different organizations seeking equality and justice around the world. Oops... But most importantly, I found the Lambda Community Center, a Center right here in Sacramento. A place

that is not only an excellent resource center, but also a second home to so many in our LGBT community, including young and old. A place for those seeking acceptance and equality.

I became a volunteer. I co-facilitated a youth group. I went out into my community and spoke on behalf of the Lambda Center on various issues we face on a daily basis. And, yes, I joined the Board of Directors!

"I think one of the largest obstacles for Hispanic lesbians "coming out" is that they have to deal with many traditional values placed upon them by their families and society."

The other day, I ran into a father I had met at a PFLAG meeting. I asked him if he remembered me and he said, "How could I forget you? You were so enthusiastic when you talk about the Lambda Center, you just light up. It would be hard to forget how proud you are to be a part of the Lambda family."

In future issues, I want to talk about things that are "on your mind" concerning our LGBT community here in Sacramento. You can email me at lori@lambdasac.org with what is on your mind.

WALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Saturday October 4th, 2003

Tri-County Area (Sacramento, Placer, & Yolo)

Run starts and ends on the West Capital Steps of the State Capital

Registration - 8:30 am Speakers and Rally - 9:00 am Walk Kickoffs - 10:00 am

Walkers can turn in Pledge Forms and checks at check-in. Send donations and other pledges to Lambda Community Center, 1927 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Make checks payable to "Walk for Mental Health." \$100.00 worth of pledges gets you a Walk For Mental Health T-shirt. For more information, phone (916) 821-4388, ask for Gina.

LAMBDA GROUPS AND PROGRAMS

Café Lambda – Friday and Saturday nights,
9:30 - midnight

First Stages – Fridays, 6:30 - 8:00

For Youth, By Youth – Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:00

Hate Crimes Task Force – Call (916) 442-0185

Lambda/Breaking Barriers Youth Group – Fridays,
8:00 - 9:30

Legal Referral Clinic – Mondays, 5:30 - 9:00

Men's Coming Out Group – Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30

Men's Discussion Group – Mondays, 6:30 - 8:00

**Survivors of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault by
WEAVE** – Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:00

Women's Coming Out Group – Sundays, 6:00 - 7:30

Womyn On Wednesdays – Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:00

**Call the Lambda Community Center for more
details, (916) 442-0185, or check out the
Calendar on our website.**

GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS MEETING AT THE CENTER

Capitol Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association –
Specific Sundays, 1:00 - 3:00, ccgra.org

Lambda Letters Project – Specific Saturdays,
11:00 - 5:00, lambdaletters.org

Over the Rainbow Group of NA – Mondays, 8:00 - 9:00,
na.org

Sacramento Gender Association – 2nd Saturday of the
month, 6:30 - 9:00, transgender.org/sga

Sacramento Valley Leathermen – 3rd Tuesday of the
month, 7:30 - 9:00, svclub.org

Sacramento Valley Veteran's – 1st Wednesday of the
month, 7:00 - 8:00, sacvalleyveterans.com

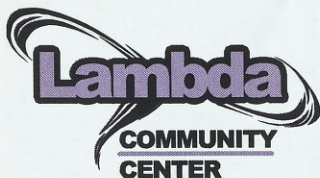
SACWN – 1st Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous – Sundays,
5:00 - 6:30, sca-recovery.org

Tri-Ess (Cross Dressers) – 3rd Saturday of the month,
7:00 - 9:00, tri-ess.org

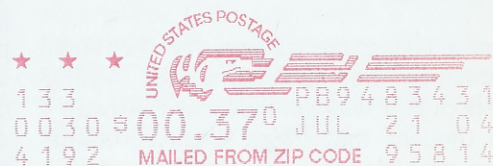
Weight Watchers – Tuesdays, 5:00 - 5:45, Thursdays,
5:30 - 6:30, Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:00,
weightwatchers.com

Zuna Institute – 2nd Saturdays, 11:00 - 1:00,
zunainstitute.org



Lambda Link

Your Connection to the Lambda Community Center



1927 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Located at the corner of L and 20th streets
in the heart of "Lavender Heights."

Hours: Monday-Friday, Noon - 9 pm
Saturday, 9 am - 9 pm
Sunday, 10 am - 6 pm

Phone: (916) 442-0185
Fax: (916) 325-1840
Email: lambda@lambdasac.org
Website: lambdasac.org
Tax ID: 94-2502229

Robert S. Brodie,
Executive Director
execdir@lambdasac.org
Ext. 101

Jason R. Kirkland,
Volunteer Coordinator
jason@lambdasac.org
Ext. 103

LLACE
1414 21st Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



AIDS Awareness Day—Sunday, August 15, 2004